

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for coagulating tissue, comprising  
an HF generator,  
an electrode (3) ~~that is~~ connected to an said HF generator (1) and adapted to produce a high-frequency current, and  
~~a tube, a tubular probe or similar~~ gas-delivering device (10) defining an outlet and adapted to deliver, in use, an argon or similar inert gas from said an outlet (13) of said ~~the~~ gas-delivering device (10) into a space defined between said the electrode (3) and said the tissue (5) in such a way that between said the electrode (3) and said the tissue (5) a plasma is produced, characterized in that the a distal end (4) of said the electrode (3) projects projecting out of said the gas-delivering device (10), and  
~~at the distal end (4) a guiding device (20) for directing and guiding at least one of said the gas and/or said plasma is disposed at said distal end of said electrode and adapted in such a way that at least a part of said at least one the flowing gas and/or the plasma is diverted into a predetermined the prespecified direction.~~
2. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the wherein said guiding device is comprised made of an electrically insulating material.
3. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the guiding device is comprised made of a thermally stable material.

4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein in said guiding device is comprised of a one of the claims 2 or 3, characterized in that the material is ceramic material.
5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the electrode (3) defines is shaped as a rod shape around which said or wire and the guiding device (20) is disposed around the electrode (3) with axial symmetry such ,so that said the gas flows into said the surrounding space substantially radially with respect to said the outlet (13) of said the gas-delivering device (10).
6. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the guiding device defines (20) has a concave configuration on a its side thereof (21) that faces said the outlet (13).
7. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the guiding device defines a (20) is rounded contour, in order to prevent mechanical damage if it touches said the tissue (5).
8. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the electrode (3) is movable is so constructed that it can be shifted relative to said the outlet (13) in such a way that when said electrode is moved into a retracted position said the guiding device (20) is in its retracted state, it closes said the outlet (13) in a substantially leakproof manner.